

Webutuck High School Athletic Policy

Dear Athletes and Parents:

Welcome to the Webutuck School District's Interscholastic Athletic Program. This information is presented to you because of your expressed desire to participate in interscholastic athletes. Your interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in athletics provides the opportunity for developing lifetime skills, which will help students in becoming well-rounded individuals capable of making decisions and handling problems. These skills will enable you to lead a happy and prosperous life. The main goal of the Webutuck Interscholastic Sports Program is to provide competitive experiences that are fun, successful and promote individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. These experiences will become high school memories that will last a lifetime.

When your daughter/son chooses to participate in one of our sport programs, they have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This guide will acquaint you with the specific policies and rules, which are necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic athletes. The Commissioner of Education's basic code for extra-class activities, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as well as, the Webutuck Board of Education and school policies govern our athletic program.

Webutuck High School is a member of the NYSPHSAA and Section Nine. We usually compete as a Class C school sometimes as a Class D and our league affiliation is MHAL Mid-Hudson Athletic League.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Webutuck Athletic Program or this handbook, please contact me at (845) 373-7049.

Sincerely,

Carla Davis
Director of Athletics

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

According to NYSPHSAA Regulations, a pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic competition, provided that he/she is a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be carrying a full academic load. The NYSPHSAA sets regulations concerning attendance at practices and the minimum number of practices before being eligible for competition in for each sport. Your coach will inform you of these requirements.

A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of the four consecutive seasons commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation. According to Commissioner's regulations, a pupil reaching the age of 19 before July 1 may not participate during the school year.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

The following documents are required prior to a sports season for a student to be eligible to tryout for an interscholastic sports team:

- Current Physical Examination – approved by the school physician
- Health Review – completed within 30 days of the start of the season (obtained from the school nurse)
- Signed Athletic Contract/Permission Agreement (obtained from Athletic Director)

SPORTS PHYSICALS

Sports physicals will be given and must be approved by our school doctor before a student is permitted to practice or participate. The sports physical is valid for one calendar year, however, a student who's physical expires before the season of competition will be asked to get a physical prior to the start of that season. A health history update is also required. Parents must sign the medical sports update form and return it to the school nurse prior to each season.

Students and parents must realize that an interview (health history update) must be done at the beginning of each new sport season (fall, winter and spring). Questions should be directed to the school nurse.

RISK FACTOR IN SPORTS

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk of injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity and vary in nature. Athletic injuries can run from minor bruises and scrapes to the more serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, concussions, paralysis and even death.

INJURIES and SPORTS MEDICINE

It is extremely important to report any injury to your coach immediately. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our school nurse at 373-4113.

RETURNING TO AN ATHLETIC TEAM AFTER AN INJURY OR ILLNESS

Any athlete who is seen by a doctor must be released (signed statement) by the doctor that treated your child to resume participation with their team. If you have to go to an emergency room for care, please obtain the release (written) before leaving the hospital because many times the attending physician may not be there the next time you visit. This release must be filed with our school nurse. It is the athlete's responsibility to get the release to the school nurse, do not leave this responsibility to some other person (coach, teacher or friend). In case of long term or severe injury, clearance by the school physician may also be necessary prior to the athlete returning to practice or competition.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participants in an activity of sport are a part of our overall educational program. It is understood that students will be present in school in order to participate in a practice, game or activity that day. Team and activity members on suspension for any disciplinary infraction will not be allowed to practice or participate in any event for that day. In the event a student is assigned to detention, students will be expected to attend this assignment before reporting for an extracurricular activity.

GAMES, PRACTICE SESSIONS and TRY-OUTS

Team members must be present and on time for all scheduled practice sessions and games. Any athlete who is present in school but absent or late to the athletic activity must have prior permission from the coach or a note from a teacher to be excused. Students must be in school by 11:00 a.m. with a legitimate excuse in order to participate in games, practices, etc. Remember once you become a member of an athletic team, you made a commitment for the season.

Exemptions are limited to:

Sickness	Funerals	Emergency Appointments
Religious Obligations	College Visitations	Exams, academic extra help

It is the responsibility of the athlete to inform the coach in advance (if possible) prior to missing a practice or a game. It should be noted that the Athletic Department realizes that unusual situations may arise, but communication is the key to understanding the circumstances. Try-out periods vary for each sport, but usually last only a few days. Your coach will inform you of their requirements.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY **(Grade 7–12 only)**

Goal: *To ensure academic success and extra-curricular participation for all students.*

Step 1: Probation – At the report period (progress report, intermediary report, or grade report period) each student will have their academic progress/status reviewed. If the student is failing one or two classes, the student will be allowed to participate 100% and will be mandated to receive academic support for the failing class(es). The student must meet with the teacher(s), agree to the details of the contract and return the signed contract to the Eligibility Program Coordinator within three days. If the student is failing three or more classes, they immediately begin at **Step 2** of this process.

* The requirements of this step are in place until the next report period (10 weeks).

Step 2: Ineligible – At the next report period (progress report, intermediary report, or grade report period), if the student is still failing they will be allowed to practice, but not compete or participate in any extracurricular events. The student will be mandated to continue the academic support plan. The student must meet with the teacher(s), agree to the details of the contract and return the signed contract to the Eligibility Program Coordinator within three days.

* The requirements of this step are in place until the next report period (10 weeks).

Step 3: Removal from a team or activity – At the next report period (progress report, intermediary report, or grade report period), if the student is still failing they will be removed from the team or activity.

NOTES:

- Student grades at the semester and end of year will be based upon the Final Grade, not the last report period grade.
- If a student fails, but attends summer school his/her eligibility will be reevaluated based upon summer school achievement.
- If a student fails two or more classes and does not attend summer school, they begin the Fall Season at **Step 2** of the policy.
- If a student fails three or more classes and does not attend summer school, they begin the Fall Season at Step 3.
- All students failing three or more classes are ineligible to attend ALL extra-curricular events.
- Extra-curricular events include: all athletic contests/practices, all activities or events not directly linked to the student's regular academic responsibilities (i.e.: dances, school play).

APPEAL PROCESS:

- A written appeal to the Principal may be initiated within two school days following notification of status.
- During the appeal process the student remains at the same step of the procedure.
- The Principal will meet independently with the student and teacher to attempt to resolve the issue.
- If the appeal issue cannot be resolved among the parties listed above, the Principal will convene a committee consisting of the Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, Parent Representative and the Athletic Director to act on the appeal. The decision of the committee will be final.

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students may change from one sport to another sport provided that they have received permission from the coaches involved and the athletic director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to tryout for another. The athlete must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot count from one sport to another.

Students involved in more than one co-curricular activity at the same time are responsible for notifying coaches and advisors of their commitments.

SCHOOL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

It is the responsibility of each athlete to return all clothing and equipment issued. Failure to do so will require an athlete to be billed for any missing articles. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting the right to receive any school equipment or clothing in the next sports season, or to be ineligible for any certificate, pin, or letter and have their report card held until payment is received. A list of outstanding equipment and uniforms will be sent to the Director of Athletics.

It is understood that the locker is the property of the school and the administration reserves the right to examine it, and its contents at any time with reasonable cause. Each student is encouraged to make sure that the locker is kept securely locked at all times and to share the combination with no other student. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

TEAM STANDARDS

In addition to observing regular school policies that are in effect at all times, athletes must:

- Attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach;
- Never provoke, cause or engage in a fight;
- Never engage in any activity which may cause criticism of his/her team or school;
- Never be disrespectful to officials or coaches;
- Follow specific rules set up by the coaches.

ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES

The administration and coaching staff of the Webutuck Schools are concerned with the health, safety, and well being of all student athletes in our school community. We are convinced that athletics and the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are not compatible. These training rules have been established in the best interest of the students and to assist them in achieving their team goals.

DURING THE ENTIRE SPORTS SEASON, ALL ATHLETES WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS ON AND OFF CAMPUS. Athletes are prohibited from the sale, use or possession of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs at all times during the sports season.

Students who participate on any athletic team are prohibited from:

- The sale, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco (including snuff, chewing or smokeless) and other illegal drugs;
- Hosting parties where alcohol is consumed or drugs are used;
- Participation in vandalism, theft, assault or other acts that violate the law*;
- Violating regulations in the Webutuck Student Handbook that results in internal or external suspension.

Any student who violates the Athletic Training rules will be brought before a committee that will include an administrator and a member of the professional staff. They may be the principal, athletic director, coach or advisor.

*Any violation of the law in or outside of school that results in a conviction in a court of law will result in the application of the consequences as described below:

CONSEQUENCES:

First Offense During The School Year: The student will be suspended from all competition for 14 consecutive calendar days vacation periods cannot be counted. During the suspension period, the student is expected to practice and attend games, but not in uniform. The student will not be eligible for, or participate in, any form of post-season honors or awards. Any coach may reserve the right to waive provision #1 and dismiss students from their teams for training violations provided they have conferred with the Athletic Director.

Second Offense During the School Year: The student will be suspended from all competition for a period of 8 weeks. The student will not be eligible for, or participate in, any form of post-season honors or awards.

Tim periods for first and second offenses are to be served regardless of the duration of the particular sports season. Should the season end prior to the completion of the suspension, the portion not served will be carried into the next sports season. The un-served time will commence on the first day of the week when interscholastic competition takes place. This does not include pre-season scrimmages.

Third Offense During the School Year: The student will automatically be suspended from participation on any athletic team for the remainder of the school year.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The NYSPHSAA recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NYSPHSAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. This standard applies to all regular season and post schedule play. Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanship conduct or flagrant foul shall not participate in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play.

Any member in the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with intent to do so to an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sport for one year from the date of the offense. NOTE: Member of the squad includes player, manager, scorekeepers, timers, and staticians.

TRANSPORTATION

Students must be transported to and from all away athletic contests by school authorized vehicles. Students must present a written note from their parents the day of a contest in order to be released to the parent after the game. This note must be signed by the principal or athletic director. A parent may not transport anyone else's children from an away game. If there are extenuating circumstances, then the Athletic Director or principal must be contacted 2 days prior to the contest to address the situation.

DIRECTIONS

Directions to away contests will be provided at the beginning of each season with the athletic schedule. It is advised to contact the host school on the day of the contest to confirm the site.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Webutuck Booster Club is comprised of parent representatives from the individual sports teams. It is recommended that parents of juniors volunteer their services to help the team organize the end of season awards night. The Booster Club is to provide support for all athletic teams at Webutuck High School. Scholarships, sportsmanship awards, and tournaments for baseball are some of the services that are provided.

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

At the completion of each season the following awards will be received for successful completion of the sports season.

Modified Teams:	Certificate
JV Teams:	Certificate and Junior Varsity Letter
Varsity Teams:	1 st year – certificate and Varsity Letter; 2 nd year – certificate and pin 3 rd and 4 th years – certificate and bar

SPECIAL AWARDS

Junior Varsity and Varsity teams award individual athletic achievement. At the Varsity level the Most Valuable Player is recognized. There are numerous memorial awards given to members of the varsity teams. Senior plaques are also given recognizing seniors that have participated on varsity level teams. At the completion of a varsity season, League and Conference coaches determine the selection of individual athletes for recognition. They are:

All League:	engraved plaque provided by MHAL
Honorable Mention:	a certificate provided by MHAL
All Section:	awards to be determined by the sport specific Coach's association
Scholar Athlete Team Award:	this program is sponsored by the NYSPHSAA to honor Varsity athletic teams and their athletes that have a Combined average that exceeds 90% for the specific Sports season. The team is acknowledged with an Engraved plate on the large plaque in the gymnasium Lobby. Each student that qualifies will be presented with a Scholar Athlete pin by the NYSPHSAA.
Scholar Athlete Award:	Sponsored by the M.H.A.L. to honor varsity athletes who Acquire a 90% grade average. A certificate is awarded Individually.

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

1. To emphasize the proper kinds of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
 2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best value of the game.
 3. To stress the value derived from playing the game fairly.
 4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
 5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
 6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
 7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
 8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players of the team.
 9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
 10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for a player, coach, school official, fan, community, state or nation.
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To PARENT/GUARDIAN and STUDENT/ATHLETE:

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR COACH

I have received, read and understand the Webutuck School District Athletic policies.

I also understand that if I do not uphold these policies that I may be suspended or dismissed from the team or possibly prohibited from participation on any athletic team for the remainder of the school year.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

STUDENT ATHLETE

DATE

SPORT

<p>COACHES MUST THEN SUBMIT THIS SIGNED FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.</p>
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